GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:475
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
MINOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS
Munda Shri Arjun

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the major irrigation projects have not been successful in creation of projected irrigation potential;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the action taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) whether the minor irrigation projects have been more effective in expansion of irrigation facilities in the country; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by the Government for promotion and implementation of minor irrigation projects?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (e) Of the irrigation potential of about 120 lakh hectare of major/medium irrigation projects included in the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), irrigation potential of 54.86 lakh hectare is reported to have been created up to March 2009. The corresponding figures in respect of Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes (SMIS) are 14.18 lakh and 4.54 lakh hectares respectively. Further irrigation potential of 9.82 lakh hectares is estimated to have been created during 2009-10 from major/medium/SMIS.

SMIS are having comparatively low gestation period as usually, there is no serious land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation forest land acquisition, contractual or other problems with these schemes which are usually associated with the major/medium irrigation projects. The size of the project to be constructed at a particular location is determined by various considerations such as water availability, availability of command area, suitability of foundation, availability of construction material etc. Usually SMIS are found to be more suitable for hilly states where available command area is of small size due to topographical reasons.

There is no restriction on number of SMIS to be included in the AIBP provided they fulfill the criteria prescribed in the AIBP guidelines. So far, 281 major/medium projects have been included in the AIBP and the numbers of SMIS funded under AIBP are 10808.